Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is[;]:

1. (original) A method of processing a database query between one or more clients and one or more databases, the method comprising the steps of receiving the database query from one of the clients, the database query formatted using a first protocol; selecting one of the databases to process the database query; translating the database query from the first protocol to a second protocol; sending the translated database query to the selected database for processing; receiving a response to the database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol; translating the response from the second protocol to the first protocol; determining which of the clients sent the database query; and sending the translated response to the client that sent the database query.

2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of validating the client.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending a time out response to the client that sent the database query whenever the translated response has not been received within a specified time period.

4. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of logging the database query[-].

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5.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing an address identifier for the client that sent the database query.

6.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a query identifier for the database query.

7.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the steps of sending the translated database query to the selected database for processing and receiving a response to the database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol comprise the steps of:

encrypting the translated database query;

sending the encrypted database query to the selected database for processing;

receiving an encrypted response to the encrypted database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol, and

decrypting the encrypted response into a response.

8.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first protocol is an Internet protocol.

9.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second protocol is a signaling protocol.

10.   (currently amended) The method as recited in claim [8]9, wherein the signaling protocol is a Signaling System 7 protocol.

11.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database query is part of a call validation process.

12.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database query is part of a call billing process.

13.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database query is part of a bank card validation process.

14.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database query is part of a bank card settlement process.

15.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selected database is a line information database.

16.   (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for processing a database query between one or more clients and one or more databases, the computer program comprising a code segment for: receiving the database query from one of the clients, the database query formatted using a first protocol; selecting one of the databases to process the database query; translating the database query from the first protocol to a second protocol; sending the translated database query to the selected database for processing; receiving a response to the database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol; translating the response from the second protocol to the first protocol; determining which of the clients sent the database query; and sending the translated response to the client that sent the database query.

17.   (original) The computer program as recited in claim 16, further comprising a code segment for validating the client.

18.   (original) The computer program as recited in claim 16, further comprising a code segment for sending a time out response to the client that sent the database query whenever the translated response has not been received within a specified time period.

19.   (original) The computer program as recited in claim 16, further comprising a code segment for logging the database query.

20.   (original) The computer program as recited in claim 16, further comprising a code segment for storing an address identifier for the client that sent the database query.

21.   (original) The computer program as recited in claim 16, further comprising a code segment for storing a query identifier for the database query.

22.   (currently amended) The computer program as recited in claim 16, wherein the [a] code segments for sending the translated database query to the selected database for processing, and receiving a response to the database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol comprising[e] a code segment for:

           encrypting the translated database query;

           sending the encrypted database query to the selected database for processing;

           receiving an encrypted response to the encrypted database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol, and

           decrypting the encrypted response into a response.

23.   (original) A system for processing a database query between one or more clients and one or more databases, the system comprising:

           a computer communicably coupled to the one or more clients;

one or more network servers communicably coupled to the computer and the one or more databases;

a server/router module resident on the computer, the server/router module receiving the database query from one of the client, the database query formatted using a first protocol, electing one of the network servers and one of the databases to process the database query, ending the database query to the selected network server determining which of the clients sent the database query, and sending a translated response to the client that sent the database query; and

a network interface module resident on each of the network servers, the network interface module translating the database query from the first protocol to a second protocol, sending the translated database query to the selected database for processing, receiving a response to the database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol, translating the response from the second protocol to the first protocol, and sending the translated response to the computer.

24. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the server/router module validates the client.

25. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the server/router module sends a time out response to the client that sent the database query whenever the translated response has not been received within a specified time period.

26. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the network interface module logs the database query.

27. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the server/router module stores an address identifier for the client that sent the database query.

28. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the server/router module stores a query identifier for the database query.

29. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the network interface module sends the translated database query to the selected database for processing and receives the response to the database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol by encrypting the translated database query, sending the encrypted database query to the selected database for processing, receiving an encrypted response to the encrypted database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol, and decrypting the encrypted response into the response.

30. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the computer and the server/router module comprise:

a first computer communicably coupled to the one or more clients;

a second computer communicably to the one or more network servers;

a server module resident on the first computer, the server module receiving the database query from one of the clients, the database query formatted using a first protocol, sending the database query to the second computer, and sending a translated response to the client that sent the database query; and

a router module resident on the second computer, the router module selecting one of the network servers and one of the databases to process the database

query, sending the database query to the selected network server, determining which of the clients sent the database query, and sending the translated response to the first computer.

31. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the first protocol is an Internet protocol.

32. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the second protocol is a signaling protocol.

33. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 32 [40], wherein the signaling protocol is a Signaling System 7 protocol.

34. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein at least one of the network servers is a service control point.

35. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein at least one of the network servers is a legacy server.

36. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein at least one of the network servers is a bank server.

37. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the database query is part of a call validation process.

38. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the database query is part of a call billing process.

39. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the database query is part of a bank card validation process.

40. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the database query is part of a bank card settlement process.

41.   (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23 [31], wherein the selected database is a line information database.

42.   (new) A method of processing a database query between at least one client and at least one database, the method comprising: receiving the database query from the client, the database query formatted using a first protocol; selecting the database to process the database query; translating the database query from the first protocol to a second protocol; sending the translated database query to the selected database for processing; receiving a response to the database query from the selected database, the response formatted using the second protocol; translating the response from the second protocol to the first protocol; and sending the translated response to the client.

43.   (new) The method of claim 42, wherein the database is at least one of:

        a client;

        the client;

        a part of the client; and

        a server.

44.   (new) A method of processing a database query, the method comprising: receiving the database query based on a first protocol; translating the database query from the first protocol to a second protocol; receiving a response formatted using the second protocol; and translating the response from the second protocol to the first protocol.